



DATE: June 10, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action, as appropriate, on funds available through the Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund

BACKGROUND

In November 2003, the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) entered into a Donor Advised Fund Agreement with the Los Altos Environmental Commission (formerly the Los Altos Environmental Committee) for the purposes of creating and maintaining an Environmental Education fund, “the Fund”. The Fund is maintained and administered by LACF and was initially created for the purpose of funding the reprinting of the *Trees of Los Altos* booklet. Upon an initial grant of \$1,000 by LACF, the fund received donations from the public to aid in the printing and distribution of the *Trees* booklet. The books were printed and distributed, though LACF reports hundreds of copies remaining in storage. The current balance of the account is \$3,528 and is to be used specifically for “environmental education”.

DISCUSSION

LACF has informed the City that the \$3,528 balance remains available for environmental education efforts. The Environmental Commission has the authority to make recommendations to LACF for disbursement of the funds.

At the January 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission discussed potential uses for the environmental education fund. The Commission determined that a brainstorming session would help determine potential uses for the funds and directed Commissioners to bring ideas to the February meeting. The Commissioners will share their ideas and begin to narrow the focus of the environmental education fund.

The Environmental Commission continued its discussion of potential uses for the environmental education fund at the February 11, 2019 meeting. Vice Chair Yuan and Commissioner Teksler formed a subcommittee to distill the February 11, 2019 discussion and develop a list of the group’s top ideas from the brainstorming session.

At the March 11, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission continued to discuss the potential uses for the environmental education fund. Commissioner Klein expressed interest to work with the History Museum to develop specific activities and programs to use the funding for engagement and community involvement focused on environmental education as both organizations deem fit, and bring back a generalized proposal with review and input from the Commission.

At the May 13, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein gave an update that the Environmental Commission is going to work with the Los Altos History Museum to host an activism workshop during the Apricot STEM Fair on Sunday, June 30, 2019. The goal is for participants to form a team, design an environmental protection campaign, and pitch their campaign for cash funding. The pitches will be recorded, and the Environmental Commission will select the winners. The details of how the environmental education fund is being allocated is being discussed and will be presented at the June meeting.

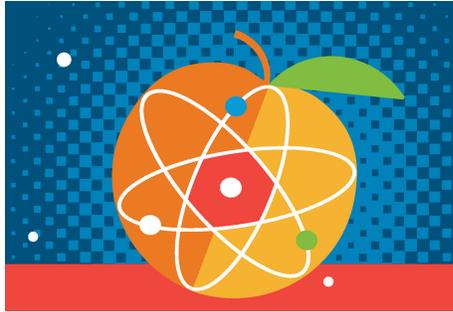
This is the message from Jane Packard, one of the organizers of the Apricot STEM Fair:

“For the EnviroThon, we were hoping teams might form around several of the projects at LAH, such as idling, straws and containers. The idea is for teams to compete for prize money, by fine-tuning a pitch for their project. It will be an intense and fun workshop, with coaching from a leader of the Stanford storytelling project. Teams will develop their pitch and deliver it by the end of the workshop. Videos of the pitches will be presented to the Environmental Commissioners, who will decide on the winners.

Developing a pitch for your project is a skill that will be useful outside the walls of the high school. It's not just about the prize money. It's also about strengthening the bonds within your teams, networking with teams from other high schools and community support. And, of course, it is about saving our planet. You are the next generation of problem-solvers and our community gains inspiration from what you are piloting in the schools. We want members of Green Team to pitch your projects in the EnviroThon Challenge!”

Attachments:

A. Apricot STEM Fair 2019 and EnviroThon



APRICOT STEM FAIR 2019 and ENVIROTHON

You are cordially invited to participate in the Los Altos History Museum's 2019 Apricot STEM Fair on Sunday, June 30 from 10am – 3pm in the Museum's courtyard.

In the spirit of our local pioneers and entrepreneurs, our Apricot STEM Fair will provide both an opportunity for families and educators to come together to explore intriguing and exciting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math hands-on enrichment activities, as well as celebrate our community's agricultural roots with orchard-themed games and favorite apricot-recipe tastings. It will be a fun day!

We are looking for High School Students to participate in this event in three different ways:

1. Join the Los Altos Envirothon -- An activism workshop and pitch event where teams compete for cash funding for their environmental protection campaign! In an intensive half-day workshop facilitated by a professional coach (formerly of the Stanford Storytelling Project), participants will form into teams, design their campaigns, and pitch their campaign stories to an audience at the Apricot STEM Fair.
2. Lead an Expedition into the orchard -- The Orchard Commons Committee explores one of the few remaining apricot orchards of Silicon Valley, located right next to the Museum. Teens participating in this committee will learn about biology, agriculture, science and history from Dr. Jane Packard, and will become guides for families in the orchard during the Apricot STEM Fair and year-round.
3. Become an Explorabox Mentor -- During the Apricot STEM Fair, we will have fun hands-on activities like an egg drop challenge, paper airplane contest, tower building out of pretzels and marshmallows, balloon car races, and others that make science, technology, engineering and math come alive for youngsters. Dr. Saroj Pathak will train a group of teens to become mentors on these activities, held during the Apricot STEM Fair.

For further information, please email education@losaltoshistory.org or contact the Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Ward, at (650) 948-9427 ex. 10 .



APRICOT STEM FAIR APPLICATION

DATE: Sunday, June 30, 2019
TIME: 10am - 3pm
LOCATION: Los Altos History Museum
51 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos

- YES! I would like to receive more information about the Envirothon!
- YES! I would like to receive more information about becoming an Orchard Commons docent!
- YES! I would like to volunteer at the Apricot STEM Fair as a mentor teaching kids about science, technology, engineering, or math with the Explorabox Non-profit.

NAME: _____

TEL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

GRADE IN SCHOOL: _____

EMAIL: _____

WHAT INTEREST YOU:

Please complete and email this form to Education@losaltoshistory.org

Due by May 31, 2019